3:Stone E-5 (1945) 1949
SA19 Talamanca SA19
Boruca

505 sea, skirting the coast westward to Quepos and eastward to the Golfo Dulce, as well as out to Caños Island, furnished another avenue
501 of travel. Dug-out canoes are used in the river, and a larger canoe, called a *bongo* in Spanish, was used on the sea. These *bongos* had sails of bark cloth (see p. 18) which were fastened to a framework of sticks. There are
● 396 only three kinds of trees utilized for making
[824] the canoes, the *espavel*, the sandbox tree, and the *guanacaste* (*Enterolobium cyclocarpum* [Jacq.] Griseb.). The canoe is caulked
396 with wax, from certain bees (*Apis Trigona*?
237 or *Melipona*?), which live in the ground on Caños Island. It is said that this is one of
[136] the few places in which this species of bee is known to exist in southeastern Costa Rica. It is interesting that this wax contains a majority of resin and very little wax, as the analysis given in the appendix shows (see p. 41). Formerly, the Indians visited Caños Island especially to obtain the wax, coming away with as much as 30 or 50 pounds in their canoes. Nowadays, since the island is no

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283 **Cordage.** The *Boruca* have two principal fibers which serve for making cord, and two which are employed but slightly. The chief fibers are *majagua* (see p. 7), and the *bejuco negro*, or, *brit* (see p. 11). These are used for making rope, string, baskets, and hammocks. In addition to this, the leaves of the *pita* plant and, at times, the leaves of the *cabuya* plant (*Furcraea* spp. and *Agave* spp.) are utilized for bags and rope.

The *majagua* is prepared by cutting a piece of the tree and stripping off the extreme outer part, using only the inner portion. To make rope from this, the fiber is tied around a tree or post and cut into strips, the quantity depending on the quality of rope desired, as the greater the number of strips, the finer the product. Figure 8, *c* shows the *majagua* fiber ready for use. The *bejuco*, or vine, is prepared by scraping off the outer bark with a knife of *caña blanca*, washed, and then cut into the desired strips. It takes a day to make this vine ready for use. The *pita* is also scraped with a cane knife until it is white all over. It is then washed in the creek or river, and cut into the

[Continued at bottom of p. 15-B]

longer easily accessible, caulking is done with the wax from a related species found around Boruca, or from the glue made from a palm belonging to the genus *Elaeis* and called in Boruca, *tuskra'* (see p. 19), and with the gum of the wild rubber tree (see pp. 19–20).

There remain certain families of "river Indians" who are famous for their skill with the dug-outs, particularly in the rapids, and there were formerly outstanding sailors for the sea-going *bongos*. On the river, both paddles with plain handles and poles are used.

Carrying Devices. Generally, the women carry cargo (see figs. 7, *a*; 8, *a*). The men very seldom do such labor. A tumpline is used to support the article which rests on the back of the individual or in a *haba* (see below), which is also carried in a similar manner (see fig. 8, *a*). Occasionally, string bags (see fig. 8, *b–4*, *5*, 7, and p. 18) are swung from the forehead down the back. They are, however, rarely used like this, being generally left to hang on the house wall. Babies are carried in a shawl or cloth on the back.

MANUFACTURES

desired pieces. *Pita* is not used for heavy rope, but is made into cord and a "fishing line" which is tied to the fishing spear or arrow (see p. 8). The leaf of the *cabuya* is beaten on stones until it is pulpy, after which it is washed, and then dried in the sun. When dry, it is pulled into strips.

Figure 8, *d* is a sample of the two kinds of rope the *Boruca* make. The upper portion is twisted and braided, while the lower half is only braided. This last method makes a stronger rope. When the rope is finished, it is tied at the end, and one of the strips is twisted around the whole, passed through the braid, and then pulled tightly.

Basketry. The typical basket of the *Boruca* is what is called in Spanish the *haba*, and in Boruca *ba'va*. It is woven by the men. The *haba* (see figs. 7, *b–2*; 8, *a*, *b–1*, *3*) is made only from the *bejuco negro*, the strips of which must be cut in lengths according to the size desired for the finished product, as in this type of basket one cannot add extra length or depth. The smallest *haba* is about 9 inches in depth, and is used for washing corn. For a

501 *cardium rhinocarupus* D.C.) and *ceiba* (*Ceiba*
[824] *pentandra* Gaertn.) are the favorite materials.
[137] The plain of the Sixaola has long been cut
over and these woods are found in the deep
• 396 forest. The Bribri select the tree and fell it,
fashioning the dugout at the spot and carrying
it to a waterway. It often takes as long as three
days to transport the dugout from the place
of manufacture to a waterway. In making the
boat, the center of the log is burned and the
rest is cut out with machete and axe.

237 **Bone.** Monkey and deer bones are made into
needles (*see* Nets). The leg bone of the wild
turkey (*Penelope purpurascens* Wagl.) is cut
at the top of the joint and is utilized for round-
ing the pellets of the blow gun. Deer bones
are made into handles for rattles and fastened
with *pita*.

412 **Needles and Beads.** *Pejibaye* thorns are used
as well as bone for needles. Beads are fashioned
301 from animal teeth (*see* Dress and Adornment),
stones, shells, and seeds. The holes in all of
these are made with an arrowhead or a fine
pejibaye stick, sand, and water. On the Pacific
432 side, needles are almost always bought.

237 **Wax.** Beeswax has varied uses. The two
[411] most important ones are for fastening on the
[354] sights of blow guns and for holding the shafts
of lances and arrows in place. At times, wax
is made into candles. It is very popular as an
article of trade.

354 **Light.** Candles are made from the white and
824 red *higuerilla*. When dry, the seeds are placed
on top of each other and a stick is run through
the center. In Chirripó, a piece of cotton is
used as a wick in beeswax. The resin from
copal (*Protium copal* Engl.) also serves as a
light, as well as the sap of the red *mastate*.

237 **Feathers.** Bright feathers are used for adorn-
[301] ment both on the house walls and as head-
[372] dresses or around the neck. Tail feathers
and/or wings of wild turkeys are generally
used as fans for the fire.

388 **Soup.** The leaves and fruit of the *guanacaste*
824 tree (*Enterolobium cyclocarpum* Griseb.) are
boiled to make soup.